

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/620,287

Examiner

Crystal J. Barnes

Applicant(s)

SMITH, ROBERT SAMUEL

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment After Final received on 05 November 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7-12,17 and 18 (renumbered claims 7,8,2-5,1 and 6).
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☒ to Paper No./Mail Date 20040808.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 20040914.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

In line 3, deleted "1."

In line 4, deleted "view, a" and inserted --view, a--.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 9, line 4 from bottom, deleted "fig.4." and inserted --fig. 4.--.

Page 10, line 6, deleted "fig. 4." and inserted --fig. 4:--.

Page 11, line 5 from bottom, deleted "fig. 3,4." and inserted --fig. 3.4.--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 7-12, 17 and 18, deleted "(ALLOWED)" and inserted --(previously presented)--.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. Claims 7-12, 17 and 18 (renumbered claims 7, 8, 2-5, 1 and 6) are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per claim 17, the prior art of record taken alone or in combination fails to teach a plurality of circuit means, one circuit means for each one audial detector, each circuit means arranged to provide that, when any one audial detector detects a sound coming from said 360° field of view before any other of said audial detectors detects said sound, then said circuit means coupled to said any one audial detector disables all other detectors of said plurality of audio detectors and emits a position signal providing that said any one audio detector emitting said position signal corresponds to said direction of said source of sound relative to said viewpoint.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following references are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to video conferencing in general:

USPN 6,795,106 B1 to Cooper

USPN 6,788,337 B1 to Fujii

USPN 6,788,333 B1 to Uttendaele et al.

USPN 6,781,606 B2 to Jouppi

USPN 6,766,035 B1 to Gutta

USPN 6,754,373 B1 to de Cuetos et al.

USPN 6,731,334 B1 to Maeng et al.

US Pub. No. 2004/0100553 A1 to Allen et al.

Kevin Wilson et al., "Audio-Video Array Source Separation for

Perceptual User Interfaces", ACM International Conference

Proceeding Series, Proceedings of the 2001 Workshop on

Perceptive User Interfaces, November 2001, Paper Session #2,

Pages 1-7.

Yong Rui et al., "Viewing Meetings Captured by an Omni-Directional Camera", Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, Proceedings of the SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, March 2001, Volume No. 3, Issues No. 1, Pages 450-457.

Ross Cutler et al., "Distributed Meetings: A Meeting Capture and Broadcasting System", International Multimedia Conference, Proceedings of the 10th ACM International Conference on Multimedia, December 2002, Session #10: Meeting Support, Pages 503-512.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Crystal J. Barnes whose telephone number is 571.272.3679. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday alternate Mondays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 571.272.3687. The fax

phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CJB
19 November 2004



Anthony Knight
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600